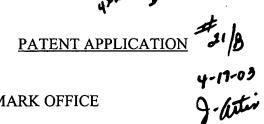
03500.012641



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Examiner: A. Patel	
MASATO YAMANOBE, ET AL.)		Carlot Secretary
Application No.: 09/041,639)	Group Art Unit: 2879	12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1
Filed: March 13, 1998)		ENTER CONTRACTOR
For: IMAGE-FORMING APPARATUS	:)	March 18, 2003	2500

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The present Preliminary Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as permitted in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted."

Prior to examination on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows: